

Staplehurst School



NEWSLETTER

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Staplehurst School is an inclusive community and we do not tolerate bullying – race, gender, disability, sexual orientation or age.

SCHOOL NEWS

PTA CHRISTMAS FAIR

1 week to go - let's make it a fantastic afternoon!

The PTA would like to say a big thank you for the fantastic response to requests for help and support for the Christmas Fair next week.

Teddies and Books: Please bring in any unwanted teddies and books for a Stall to help raise money for the Year 6 Leavers' Party.

There will be a Grotto, Craft Stalls, Refreshments Crepes, Hot Pastries and cakes. Entry is £1.00 but kids go free.

KS2 CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE

It has been decided that for our end of term Christmas celebrations we are going to have a Victorian theme. This links in with our whole school approach of teaching the classics, in particular the works of Charles Dickens. Please look out for a letter to find out how your children can get involved.

CHRISTMAS TREES

Hartley Dyke Farm Shop at Charity Farm, Cranbrook have once again donated two fabulous Christmas trees this year. We would like to thank them and our PTA members who have kindly decorated the trees which are situated in the Junior and Infant Halls.



REHEARSALS

Rehearsals are well underway for the KS1 Christmas Performance. Letters have been sent home with children this week and ticket requests should be returned to the office by **Tuesday 5 December**.



RECIPE WINNER

Congratulations to Henry P in 3S who was one of the winners of a recipe competition that the Contract Dining Company ran this year throughout schools. He was presented with a framed certificate and goodie bag at a launch held at Loose Primary School. His recipe along with other children's recipes is to be published in their new cookbook.



THANKS

We would like to thank Staplehurst Garage for their kind generosity as they mended our netball posts free of charge. What fantastic community spirit!

PUPIL PHOTOGRAPHS

Don't forget that if you are not ordering your school photos online you will need to return the proofs to school by **Friday, 1 December**.

SECRET SANTA

Secret Santa will be running at school next week from Monday to Wednesday as follows:-

Monday - EY1, EY2, 1H, 1L, 1B, 2KS, 2O and 3T

Tuesday - 3S, 4H, 4R, 5G, 5S, 6C and 6L

There will be a sweep on the Wednesday, for anyone who is absent from school, or who forgets their money on either the Monday or Tuesday, and they will still have the opportunity to purchase a gift. Presents are £2 each. Your child may purchase two presents, so please remember to send them in with the correct money in a named envelope. Thank you for your support.

ATTENDANCE

The Department for Education's target for attendance is 96%. We always strive for 100%.

Whole school attendance

Attendance for the whole school for the week is **94%**.

Class attendance

Special congratulations to **5G17** who achieved the highest attendance this week with **99.28%**.

CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES

Date	KS1 Assembly 9am	KS2 Assembly 2.45pm
8 Dec	Year 1	Drop In Years R-5
15 Dec	Year 2	Year 4

YEAR 6 TRIP TO KENT LIFE

Permission slips for the Year 6 trip to Kent Life must be returned to the office in advance of the trip next Friday, 8 December. Payment is due as soon as possible. Thank you.

NO SMOKING POLICY

Please can we remind you that Staplehurst School has a strict No Smoking Policy, which also includes e-cigarettes. Thank you for your cooperation.

YEAR 6 PARENT DROP IN

Please note that due to the Year 6 trip to Kent Life on Friday 8 December, the Parent Drop In for Year 6 pupils only has been moved to **Thursday 7 December at 2.45pm**.

FRIDAY MORNING ASSEMBLIES

Today we welcomed the parents of children in Year 2 who joined us for a cup of coffee and chat after the Celebration Assembly. The children were pleased to be able to show off their work as an extra celebration of their achievements. Next week we look forward to welcoming parents from Year 1.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Wednesday 13 December is Christmas Lunch Day. The children are waited on by staff and there is a festive atmosphere. Due to high demand parents are unable to have lunch with their children that day.

The menu will be:

Roast Turkey & Sausage wrapped in Bacon served with Sage & Onion Stuffing

Honey Roasted Quorn Fillet

Roast Potatoes, Brussel Sprouts, Carrots, Peas

Festive Ice Cream, Satsumas or Homemade Christmas Pudding, served with cream

SCHOOL DINNER ROTA

w/c 04.12/17 Year 3, 4, 5, 6

w/c 11.12.17 Year 4, 5, 6, 3

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION

This is just a reminder that nomination forms need to be handed in to the school office by 5pm on Tuesday, 5 December.

PARENT COUNCIL

The Parent Council met this week and provided three topics for conversation:

- Preparing Year 6 for transition to secondary school – how to read bus and train timetables, what to do if you leave something on the bus, basic money management and banking, etc.
- 'Golden Time' – the reward time given on Friday afternoons
- Raising the children's awareness of disability in other children

The minutes will be available on the website soon – please refer to them for the names of the current representatives.

PTA NEWS

The PTA would like to thank everyone who has helped with the School Discos as this event would not be able to take place without this support. Hopefully the children will all enjoy themselves. Tickets can be bought on the door so please don't worry if you have not already got one.

If you have volunteered to be one of the Secret Santa Elf Wrappers, please report to the office on your allocated day and you will all be shown where to go; thank you very much for your support.

Next week children will be coming home with an empty plate. If possible please fill with yummy cakes for our Christmas Fair on the Saturday 9 December. Also, if you can spare 30 minutes or an hour to help at the Fair between 12 and 3pm please contact Anita Moore on 07967 405021.

COMMUNITY NEWS

SHEPHERDS MARKET

The Shepherds Market is being held tomorrow 2 December at All Saints Church, Staplehurst from 11am until 2pm. There will be many stalls including children's tombola, with a prize every time.

STAPLEHURST MESSY CHURCH

Tomorrow, Saturday 2 December is Messy Church at Staplehurst URC. Join them for some crafty activities to get

in the Christmas spirit and to help remember what Christmas is really all about. Doors open at 3.30pm for family board games followed by crafts including making edible angels, a stained glass banner, woolly sheep, handprint stables, Christmas candles and a Christmas themed quiz. At 4.45-5pm they have a short service with a few songs and a story to keep the Christmas theme going until everyone has tea together. It will be lots of festive fun and a great family way to start the advent season. Do go along if you can and join in the messy fun.

JAZZ EVENING – ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

All Saints' Church invite you to an evening with **Invicta Jazz Orchestra** next Thursday, 7 December, starting at 7.30pm. There will be a wine bar from 7pm and pizza and wine on sale in the interval. Tickets are £7.50, available from Helen's Coffee Shop or on the door. Christmas fun starts here!

STAPLEHURST FREE CHURCH

You are warmly invited to go and see the Renowned Gospel Choir IDMC in concert at **Staplehurst Free Church on Friday 8 December at 7:30pm.**

The choir will be singing a mix of gospel favourites, seasonal songs and carols

Admission is free but there will be a collection in aid of Maidstone Churches Winter Shelter

Also, meet Santa in his winter wonderland grotto at Staplehurst Free Church on **Saturday 16 December 10.00am to 2.00pm.**

Admission is only £2 and includes a small gift. There will also be an opportunity to do a little Christmas shopping and find that extra special Christmas gift on the craft stall.

Why not stay for lunch in the café and try out the festive additions to the cafe menu at what will be the last café session before 2018!

Lastly, the church welcomes you to go and be reminded of the events surrounding the very first Christmas as on **Sunday 17 December at 10:30am** when their Kid's Church will lead our Nativity Service.

ANGEL FESTIVAL – ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

All Saints' Church would like to welcome you to take part in Staplehurst Community Angel Festival at All Saints' Church on 16 and 17 December.

To participate, all you need to do is make an Angel, which will be displayed in the Church for everyone to enjoy. Entry is free to all.

Angels can be made from any material and be any size. They can be made from papier mache, wood, feathers, clay, abstract art, paintings, photography, cards and much more in any size or form but please attach to (or place beside) your Angel, a card with a short note explaining what your angel means to you.

Angels can be placed in the Church during the week leading up to and including Friday 15 December using the boards provided (which will be laid over some of the pews), tables, window sills and floor. Please do not use any "blu tack", nails, staples, drawings pins or other sharp objects on walls, pews or general church furnishings. Angels should be free standing.

Anybody who would like to enter an Angel, please contact: All Saints Church Parish Office on 01580 891258 or e-mail allsaintsstaplehurst@enterprise.net.

If you wish to illuminate your Angel, please use battery operated lights as there are NO electricity points that can be used in church.

The winning Angel will be announced at the Nine Lesson & Carol Service on Sunday 17 December at 6.30pm.

THE HIGH WEALD ACADEMY

The High Weald Academy is starting a consultation process in regard to a proposed admission arrangement from September 2019. A copy of the consultation paper is available in Reception.

The consultation runs from 15 November 2017 to 8 January 2018 and any comments on the proposed arrangements should be sent via email to Dr Alie Bird, Clerk to the Trust Board at birda@brooklearningtrust.org.uk or sent to the academy in a sealed envelope marked 'Consultation on Admissions Arrangements' for the attention of Dr Alie Bird.

Final admissions arrangements will be published on the academy's website by 28 February 2018 in line with statutory guidelines.

DIARY DATES

Monday 4, Tuesday, 5 and Wednesday 6 December
Secret Santa

Thursday 7 December
Year 6 Parent Drop In
Early Years' Christmas Party

Friday 8 December
Years R – 5 Parent Drop In

Saturday 9 December
PTA Christmas Fair 12-3.00pm

Tuesday 12 December
KS1 Christmas Performance 1.45pm

Wednesday 13 December
KS1 Christmas Performance 9.30am

Tuesday 19 December
KS2 Christmas Performance 9.30am
End of Term

Wednesday 20 December
INSET Day

Thursday 4 January 2018
Start of Spring Term (Term 3)

ADMIN

Online payments - This is the preferred method. Please pay online for School Dinners, Breakfast Club, Trips, Swimming, Uniform and Equipment.

Dinner Money queries and payments - Please contact Maxine on 07501 007835.

School Uniform - Uniform can be ordered and paid for online (orders will be sent home with your child). The Uniform Shop is open anytime, but **please avoid Monday mornings and Friday afternoons.** Thank you.